

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activity:

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2021, the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act. Since the beginning of the 112th Congress, my Republican colleagues have been relentless in their attempts to weaken offshore drilling regulations and to preserve wasteful and unnecessary subsidies to the most profitable oil corporations in the world. While Americans are facing serious pain at the pump, in the first quarter of 2011, the five biggest oil companies have made a total combined profit of \$35 billion. Yet, as these companies break record profits, the Republican leadership insists that we continue to hand these companies billions of taxpayer dollars in subsidies.

H.R. 2021 is just another blatant attack on human health and the environment in an attempt to shield outrageous Big Oil profits. This bill seeks to evade Clean Air Act standards intended to protect our air and health by allowing the oil companies to pollute as much as they want from their offshore operations. Secondly, this anti-environment piece of legislation would block the right of California and other states to enforce more rigorous emissions standards on vessels servicing an offshore operation. It seems ironic that my colleagues who are arguing against big government now want to take away states' rights to protect their residents from dirty local air.

I strongly support the need to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. However, H.R. 2021 is not the answer. I am extremely disappointed that my Republican colleagues continue to dismiss renewable sources of energy as part of the solution. The renewable energy sector has the potential to support hundreds of thousands of jobs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The number of jobs in the solar industry, for example, doubled from 2009 to 2010. However, in the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Subcommittee Appropriations bill, Republicans have proposed draconian cuts to programs that focus on energy efficiency research and renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind. The proposed cut of \$1.895 billion to the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program is simply unacceptable. These cuts to alternative energy programs and the numerous pro-Big Oil bills, such as H.R. 2021, that have been introduced in the 112th Congress indicate that the Republicans do not support a comprehensive solution to rising gas prices, ending America's foreign dependence on oil, and creating jobs.

My fellow Democrats attempted to improve H.R. 2021 by offering ten different amendments, but the Republicans rejected each and every one, including an amendment that would maintain California's ability to set its own emissions standards. Unfortunately this Republican desired top-down approach will degrade air quality along the coast of California, causing health costs to soar with increasing incidence of respiratory illnesses.

Madam Chair, the quality of the air we breathe and the health of my constituents is of utmost importance. For this reason, I do not support this legislation, and I voted "no" on H.R. 2021.

## RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SHUTESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JOHN W. OLVER**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 1761, the incorporation of the town of Shutesbury, Massachusetts, was approved by the colonial Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Sir Francis Bernard. Named for former colonial Governor Samuel Shute, the town is an exemplification of the natural beauty of Massachusetts' rolling hills. After 250 years, Shutesbury remains a town largely untouched by the imperfections of modernity.

The town traces its history to 1735, when an east-west inland road was built to encourage commerce from Lancaster to Sunderland. Over the next century, residents constructed a meetinghouse and assembled a small town. The incorporation of Shutesbury in 1761 allowed residents to expand their community to include a church and public library. The town has grown to now include over 1,700 people while maintaining the charm and civility that Shutesbury has continually represented.

Shutesbury continues to thrive in western Massachusetts as a rural community amidst burgeoning cities. The promise of this town is rooted in its commitment to protecting natural resources and recognizing the capacity of forests, streams and rural communities for future generations to enjoy.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the town of Shutesbury, Massachusetts, I congratulate its citizens and praise their dedication and perseverance throughout the town's history. I look forward with enthusiastic support as we continue together to work toward a prosperous future.

## IN HONOR OF REVEREND THOMAS O'DONNELL

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Thomas O'Donnell, who has devoted his life to the enrichment of his community.

Reverend O'Donnell was born in Cleveland, Ohio at St. John's Hospital and is one of three children. His brother, Neil is now deceased and his sister Ellen Jane is a nun in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Reverend O'Donnell spent much of his youth interested in music and eventually received a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Oberlin College before entering the seminary. Ordained on May 20, 1967, Reverend O'Donnell first served at St. Clare Church in Lyndhurst, Ohio. Two years later he began teaching Sacred Music at St. Mary Seminary. While he was teaching, in 1972, Reverend O'Donnell began attending Case Western Reserve University to further his studies in Sacred Music.

After fourteen years at the seminary, during which time he also became Diocesan Director of Music and Assistant Director of the Diocesan Office for Pastoral Liturgy, he decided to return to parish ministry. Reverend O'Donnell then began to serve as a hospital chaplain, first at Brentwood and Suburban Hospitals and later as the Catholic Chaplain at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland. He underwent a two year training course at the Cleveland Clinic prior to his work as a chaplain.

Reverend O'Donnell has been with Holy Name for fourteen years and has worked tirelessly for the betterment of his parish and the entire community. Reverend O'Donnell brought together a parish life steering committee and was integral in opening the John Paul II—Ozanam Hunger Center, along with churches in Slavic Village and several other suburban parishes. Furthermore, his parish now provides the area with five Alcoholics Anonymous meetings a week, a Parish Wellness Center, a hot meal program which serves the community twice a month, and countless other civic organizations and projects.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Reverend Thomas O'Donnell, a hardworking, heartfelt individual who has devoted his life so tirelessly to God and his community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 478, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

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